

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:NEWARNER/ARA:APSHANKLE:AG

APPROVED BY ARA:HSHLAUDEMAN

S/NM:DHERNST

DEA:JSTRICKLER (SUBS)

ARA:RBRAZEAL

S/S-O: P. JOHNSON

----- 030598

P 080232Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 246411

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS2

TAGS: SNAR, PA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT STROESSNER REQUEST FOR INFO ON RICORD

REFERENCE: STATE 243878; ASUNCION 4447 AND 4548

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM S/NM AND SHLAUDEMAN

FYI:

1. ALTHOUGH RICORD HAS BEEN VISITED IN PRISON TWICE DURING PAST NINE MONTHS BY DEA AGENTS AND BY ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY, NO REPEAT NO STATEMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM HIM OR GIVEN BY HIM. HE HAS TOLD US AGENT THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER PROVIDING INTELLIGENCE IN RETURN FOR A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF HIS PRISON SENTENCE, BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO TESTIFY IN COURT UNDER ANY CONDITIONS. IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT HIS CONDITIONS AND PRICE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. IN SHORT, HE HAS NOT PROVIDED ANY INFORMATION AND NO UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN REACHED WITH HIM. END FYI

2. YOU MAY AT YOUR DISCRETION TELL PRESIDENT STROESSNER

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THAT RICORD HAS NOT TALKED; HOWEVER NOTHING SHOULD BE SAID

ABOUT HIS EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A DEAL. WHILE DEA BELIEVES THAT THERE MIGHT BE AN ADVANTAGE IN LEAVING STROESSNER UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHAT RICORD HAS OR HAS NOT SAID, IT DEFERS TO YOUR JUDGMENT OF LOCAL SITUATION AS TO WHETHER IT MIGHT BE MORE BENEFICIAL TO OUR LONGER RANGE NARCOTICS EFFORT IN PARAGUAY TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH STROESSNER ON THIS

PARTICULAR MATTER AT THIS TIME. WE CONCUR IN THIS AND WOULD APPRECIATE A REPORT ON WHAT APPROACH YOU DECIDE TO TAKE.

3. REGARDING INTEREST EXPRESSED BY FONMIN AND PRESIDENT IN SPECIFICS RELATING TO RICORD (ASUNCION 4548), RICORD WAS ARRESTED IN ASUNCION MARCH 25, 1971. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY EXTRADITED AND ARRIVED IN US SEPTEMBER 1, 1972 WHERE HE WAS HELD FOR TRIAL ON \$1,500,000 BOND. ON JANUARY 29, 1973, RICORD WAS SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND FINED \$20,000. HE WILL BECOME ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR PAROLE AFTER SERVING APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF SENTENCE.

4. REGARDING GENERAL PARRICIO COLMAN (DECEASED), INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE DOES NOT CLEAR HIS NAME. WHILE THERE IS NO PROOF, INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO DEA FROM DEFENDANTS, INFORMANTS AND OTHER SOURCES INDICATES THAT COLMAN WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING NARCOTICS. THIS IS ALSO FOR USE AT YOUR DISCRETION.

5. DEA HAS INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE ABOUT MANY PARAGUAYAN TRAFFICKERS, WHICH CAN NOT IN ITS PRESENT RAW STATE BE TURNED OVER TO THE GOP AT ANY LEVEL. IF AND WHEN THIS INTELLIGENCE IS DEVELOPED INTO EVIDENCE, INDICTMENTS WILL BE SOUGHT IN THE US, VENUE PERMITTING. WHEN THIS OCCURS, THE BEST TACK IN SOME SELECTED CASES MIGHT PROVE TO BE TO INFORM STROESSNER AND EXPLORE WITH HIM POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS, SUCH AS EXTRADITION, EXPULSION, LOCAL PROSECUTION, ETC. IN THIS REGARD, WE WOULD HOPE THAT STROESSNER'S OUTRAGE OVER THE BOOK CONTRABANDISTA WILL NOT HAVE LESSENED, AND THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO BE
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PREPARED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION AGAINST PROMINENT PARAGUAYAN TRAFFICKERS.

6. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH DEA HEADQUARTERS. INGERSOLL

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